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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

The wrong place at the wrong time

Surrey Six apartment was slain repairman's last stop for the day, court hears PAGE 3

Stomaching the vomit comet

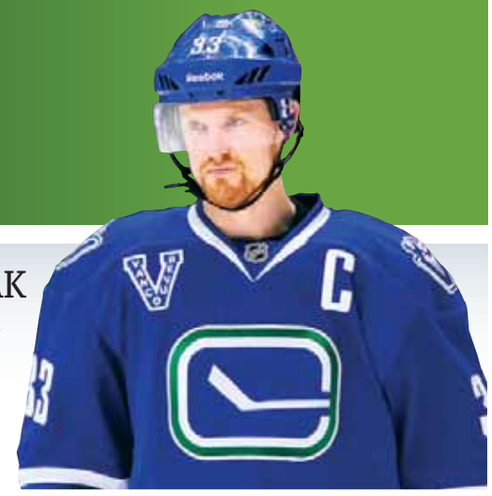
Director Alfonso Cuaron talks his new space flick and surviving zero gravity PAGE 15

Winter's coming; quick, head south!

From drinking to sleeping to dining, we've got your to-do list covered in Bermuda PAGE 17

MAKE OR BREAK

THREE KEY FACTORS WILL DECIDE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW CANUCKS CAMPAIGN: INJURIES, REALIGNMENT AND COACHING PAGE 23



FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS

The city is renovating the north plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery, and it wants the public's help before it chooses a final design for the go-to protest place. In this rendering by Nick Milkovich Architects, a "multi-purpose" ring would float above the public space. Story, page 4. CONTRIBUTED

Transit police run-ins with pot petitioners spur complaint

Surrey. Sensible B.C. alleges canvassers were harassed while collecting signatures at SkyTrain stations

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Canvassers trying to convince people to support marijuana decriminalization have been kicked out of Surrey SkyTrain stations, prompting Sensible B.C. campaign founder Dana Larsen to file a complaint with Elections BC

Despite their legal right to be on transit property for political purposes, there were a few incidents last week where transit police bothered canvassers as they attempted to collect enough signatures to spark a referendum, Larsen said.

TransLink had said Friday it would not interfere, but Larsen said there were additional problems Sunday when transit police decided a little table wasn't allowed at Surrey Central Station and allegedly started harassing canvassers again.

Not being able to canvass at busy transit hubs spells trouble for Sensible B.C. as it attempts to force a referendum by collecting signatures in 90 days from 10 per cent of registered voters in each of 85 electoral districts.

Larsen estimates 400,000 to 500,000 are needed to trigger a referendum by the Dec. 8 deadline.

Three weeks into the campaign, 2,400 canvassers have collected "tens of thousands" of signatures.

"We don't really have time to be arguing about this type of stuff," Larsen said regarding the transit incidents.

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Surrey Six apartment was gas repairman's last stop

Never returned. Court hears from manager of tower that became gruesome crime scene

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

The tragic tale of Ed Schellenberg's death was fleshed out at the Surrey Six trial on Monday.

The court heard from Tracy Carothers, who managed Surrey's Balmoral Tower with her husband, about how Schellenberg was servicing the building's fireplaces in the week leading up to Oct. 19, 2007.

By that Friday, Schellenberg and his nephew had just one floor left to complete.

Carothers knocked on the door of Suite 1505 to see if anyone was home and met two young Asian-looking men she had never seen before and who "didn't know what I was talking about" when she told them about the fireplace repairs.

A moment later, a tenant known to her as Chris Baldini appeared and confirmed he had been expecting the repair.

Carothers testified she suspected Baldini of being a drug dealer and warned Schellenberg that it "wouldn't be a good environment" for his nephew.

So when the time came, Schellenberg ventured into 1505 on his own.

By 2:10 p.m., Carothers was back in her office, content that Schellenberg was servicing the last unit. But Schellenberg found himself at the wrong place at the wrong time.

"Did you ever see Mr. Schellenberg again?" asked Crown prosecutor Mark Levitz.

"No," she replied, tersely.

Concerned that an hour had passed and Schellenberg hadn't called to confirm he had finished the 15-20 minute job, she dialled up the repairman.

She tried "a dozen" times, with no response.

Her husband went out in search of Schellenberg and stumbled onto one of the most gruesome crime scenes in the province's history.

Ed Schellenberg, Edward Narong, Corey and Michael Lal, Ryan Bartolomeo and Chris Mohan were found dead.

Matthew Johnston and Cory Haevischer are on trial for six counts of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder. Michael Le is on trial for one count of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy.

The trial continues.

In this 2007 file photo, RCMP search the property around the Surrey apartment building where six people died in a multiple homicide. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Burnaby passes harsh pit-bull bylaw

Burnaby city council tightened its leash on so-called "vicious" dogs when it passed a stricter animal-control bylaw Monday night, leaving pit-bull owners dismayed that community feedback was ignored.

Council received more than 140 letters after delaying its vote to get feedback. Of those, 90 per cent were opposed to increased licensing and impound fees for people who own dogs that look like pit bulls.

"There was an overwhelming response from the community to say they did want this," said Kristen Neratini of advocacy group Hug a Bull, adding that about 1,000 people signed a petition against the change.

Yet councillors said the "silent majority" supported harsher rules for pit bulls, which were responsible for at least 12 per cent of the reported biting incidents in Burnaby since 2007.

In passing the rules, councillors cited U.S. research and repeatedly stated that they didn't want to be responsible if someone was attacked.

Pit bulls must be muzzled when off their owners' property and, if their owners are away, kept in a locked enclosure. For "vicious" dogs, the city also boosted licensing fees to $100 from $26, off-leash fees to $200 from $100 and impound periods to 21 days from 10 days.

Letters opposed

90%

Council's plea for community feedback prompted more than 140 letters. Of those, 90 per cent were opposed to the changes

This goes against a trend toward breed-neutral legislation that has successfully reduced dog bites in cities such as Calgary, Neratini said.

"Regardless if you're a dog owner not, a pit-bull advocate or not, you can't help but look at this and say this is wrong. They need to be held accountable," she said.

Pit-bull advocates plan to support new councillors in the 2014 civic election, Neratini said. EMILY JACKSON /METRO

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It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a floating ring!

A design rendering of what the north plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery could look like. If the "multi-purpose" floating ring ignites a strong reaction in you, then go to the open house at UBC and express your admiration, or disdain, for the proposed design. CONTRIBUTED

Have your say. City looks for your opinion on the redesign of the Vancouver Art Gallery's north plaza

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Vancouver's go-to protest place is undergoing renovations, but the city wants input before it decides how to revamp the north plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

The city is holding two open houses this week to garner feedback on its pitches for the $3.2-million renovations to the space on West Georgia Street that acted as a public square during the Olympics and the home of the Occupy movement.

Ideas for the space include a "multi-purpose" floating ring, a pavilion and a water surface to replace the non-functioning, deteriorated fountain that the province plans to remove.

Designed by Vancouver-based Nick Milkovich Architects, the different options all include plans to fix the waterproofing of the building under the plaza.

In a survey last year, the public told the city it wanted to get rid of the fountain, create a "European feel" and not to encourage any riots.

People want to use the space for enjoying food and sitting, but want it to accommodate crowds or events.

Separate open houses will be held later this month regarding controversial plans to permanently close the 800 block of Robson Street to traffic.

The first open house was held Tuesday and the second will be held Saturday at UBC Robson Square at 12:30 p.m.

Students want ESL to count as credit

If a high school student takes a French class they get credits toward graduating, so why can't young immigrants get the same deal if English is their second language?

A group of immigrant and refugee youth has launched a petition on Tuesday to make English Language Learning (also known as English as a Second Language) courses count toward their diplomas.

"At the very least, our hard work at school should be worth just as much as anyone else's," according to a statement from group member Dina Ganan Perez.

It's one of 16 recommendations developed by 200 young people sponsored by the Vancouver Foundation and B.C.'s representative for children and youth.

Other recommendations included anti-racism and cultural awareness training for teachers, consistency in ESL testing across the province, mentorship programs between young adult immigrants and newcomers, and the creation of pre-departure and post-arrival resources.

The recommendations are meant to help eliminate forms of discrimination, celebrate diversity, enhance people's sense of belonging and build cross-cultural understanding, according to Vancouver Foundation CEO Kevin McCort.

The results from the online petition at make-it-couny.ca will be presented to B.C.'s Ministry of Education later in 2013.

EMILY JACKSON /METRO

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Heritage. Musqueam buy Marpole village site

An ancient burial site that was the site of protests nearly a year and a half ago after remains were unearthed has been sold to the Musqueam Indian Band after prolonged negotiations between the band, the provincial government and the developer.

"We're happy to get it back under control but we're not completely happy we had to buy back one of our own cemeteries," said Chief Wayne Sparrow, following the announcement that the Marpole village site had been sold by developer Century Group to the Musqueam.

Sparrow wouldn't comment on the price paid for the two-acre property at 1338 SW Marine Dr.

The property was owned by Gary and Fran Hackett, who joined together with Century Group to form Century Group HQ Developments Ltd.

They planned on building a 108-unit condo development on the property until human remains were unearthed on the property in January 2012 during archeological excavations.

Ancient burial ground

Nestled under the Arthur Laing Bridge, the site was once an ancient burial ground and the site of a village. The area was designated a Canadian Heritage site in 1993.

The $40-million project, with more than 70 condos already sold, was shelved.

"I'm relieved and gratified to be moving on.... We had all the things that we needed, we had a development permit, we had sold units in the property and it was all a go in terms of every legal approval that we needed — until we hit some bones," said Sean Hodgins, the president of Century Group.

Those remains sparked protests and culminated in a march across the Arthur Laing Bridge on May 31 that blocked traffic during the morning commute. **NICK WELLS/METRO**

Finding Hope in Shadows

Rainy Day at Pigeon Park, one of the photos in this year's Hope in Shadows calendar. COURTESY LUIS ALBERTO HERNANDEZ/HOPE IN SHADOWS

Downtown Eastside. 11th annual calender a chance to reflect the community through the eyes of residents

Rose Jack decided this year she would take a picture that she felt symbolized the sense of community and friendship she saw reflected in her children and their friends every day.

"I was inspired by the kids' closeness. They'll grow up and know each other for all of their lives," the 32-year-old said of her cover-winning photo for the 11th annual Hope in Shadows calendar.

The photo was shot in her backyard in the Strathcona neighbourhood at the end of June. Jack's photo of her children Joey Lagimodiere Jr. and Jacob Lagimodiere, alongside their friends Ryan Clayton, his brother Marcel and their cousin Reina Perez was chosen from more than 4,000 images submitted by 200 photographers.

Quoted

"I think it's important for people to be able to tell and share their stories."

Project co-ordinator Carolyn Wong

The photos were unveiled at the launch of the calendars, with 17,000 printed.

The calendar is organized by Pivot Legal Society, who says the calendar is an opportunity to reflect the community of the Downtown Eastside through the eyes of residents.

Vendors purchase the calendars for $10 from Pivot and are then able to sell them for $20 each to generate a profit.

This year was also the first time Hope in Shadows has gone beyond its normal Downtown Eastside borders to test a pilot project in North Vancouver.

One photo from North Vancouver was featured as one of 26 honourable mention photos.

The winning photos from the Hope in Shadows photography contests will be exhibited at the Cafe for Contemporary Art in North Vancouver from Oct. 7 to 11.

NICK WELLS/METRO

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Margaret Atwood, left, Kim Campbell, Nancy Ruth, Vivienne Poy and Sally Goddard. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILES

They stand on guard? O Canada irks women

Make it gender neutral? Author Margaret Atwood and former PM Kim Campbell seek change

A group of women is launching a campaign for gender-neutral language in the English lyrics of O Canada.

The group says the change would restore the national anthem to its original gender-neutral intentions.

The group — which includes author Margaret Atwood and ex-prime minister Kim Campbell — has set up a website to promote the idea.

It is calling on Canadians to join the campaign and encourage Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government to change the line "in all thy sons command" to "in all of us command."

The website RestoreOurAnthem.ca is being launched on the 100th anniversary of the change made to Judge Robert Stanley Weir's original English lyrics.

The coalition says for no documented reason the lyrics were revised in 1913 from "thou dost in us command" to "in all thy sons command" and it's time to make a change to reflect the inclusive intentions of the original lyrics.

Other members of the group include Senator Nancy Ruth, author and fashion designer Vivienne Poy and Sally Goddard, mother of Nichola Goddard, the first female Canadian soldier killed in combat. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Restoring those lyrics to gender-neutral is not only an easy fix ... but it's long overdue."
Margaret Atwood

Climate change?

'Refugee' seeks a haven from rising tides

A man from one of the lowest-lying countries on Earth is trying to convince New Zealand judges that he's a refugee — from climate change.

The 37-year-old and his wife left his remote atoll in the tiny Pacific country of Kiribati six years ago for higher ground and better prospects in New Zealand, where their three children were born. Immigration authorities have twice rejected his argument that rising sea levels make it too dangerous for him and his family to return to Kiribati.

Kiribati is an impoverished string of coral atolls about halfway between Hawaii and Australia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec uproar

Topless protest jolts politicos

A topless protest interrupted Quebec's national assembly Tuesday, in a screaming semi-nude denunciation of the controversial values charter.

Women began removing their clothes while Premier Pauline Marois was answering a question. Security guards pulled a trio of half-naked protesters away and struggled to dress them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Giant U.S. closure: Will the last to leave please switch off the lights?

America shuts down. 800,000 federal workers sent home as historic wrangle over health care shutters many U.S. agencies

The U.S. Congress hung "Closed" signs on a big swath of government Tuesday.

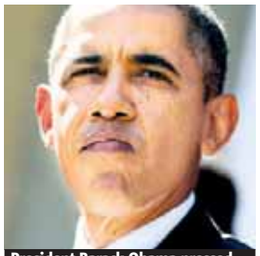
About 800,000 workers were sent home.

Barricades sprang up at the Lincoln Memorial and other monuments.

The National Park Service was turning off 45 fountains around Washington, D.C.

Agencies like NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency were shuttered.

More than a third of the federal civilian workforce was furloughed — equivalent to the combined workforce of Target, General Motors, Exxon and Google.



President Barack Obama pressed his flagship health-care program forward. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And on Capitol Hill, Democrats and Republicans traded blame for the first partial government shutdown in nearly two decades.

But people classified as essential government employees — such as air-traffic controllers and Border Patrol agents — worked.

So did members of the military and employees such as State Department workers who issue passports and visas.

With the Republican-controlled House and Democrat-controlled Senate at a stalemate, it was unclear how long the shutdown would last — or who the public would blame for unanswered phones and locked doors.

"There has to be better ways to run the government than to get to a standstill like this," said Cheryl Strahl, who travelled from California to take in New York City sites.

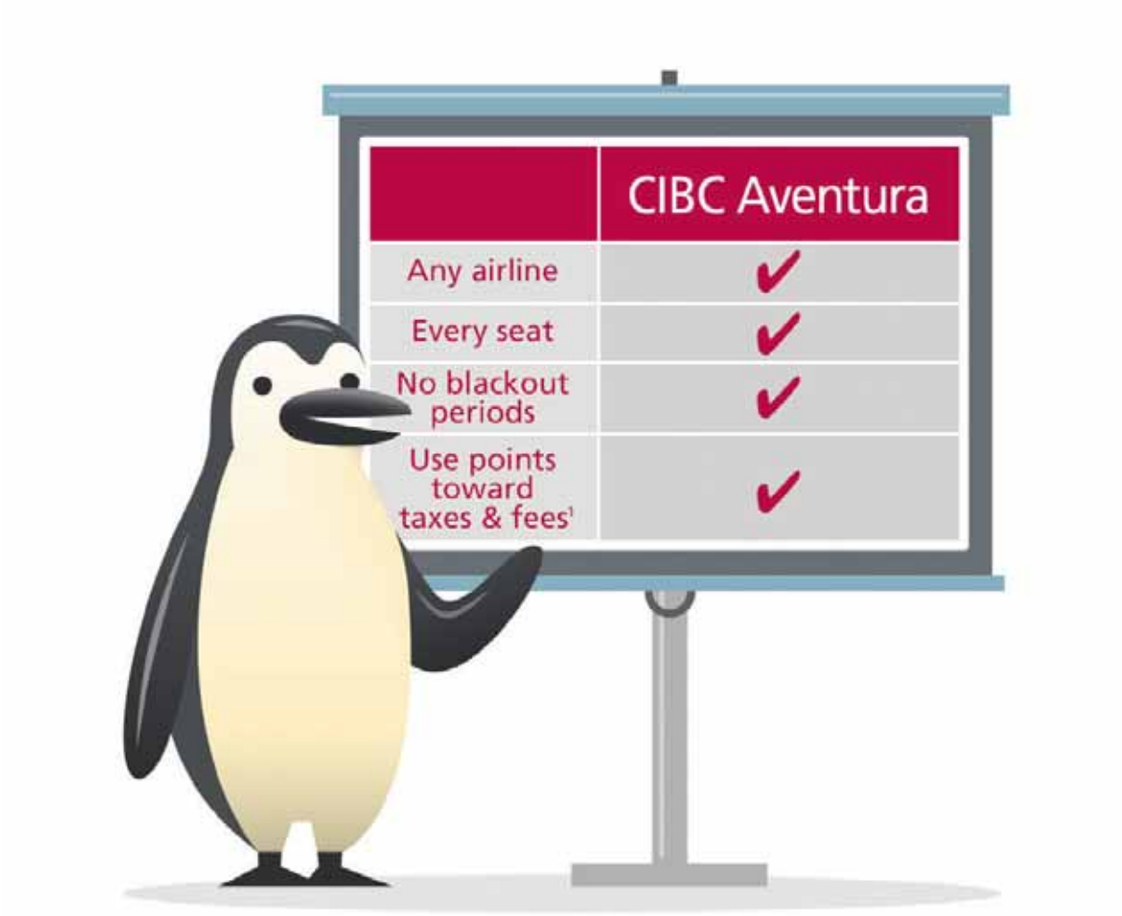
Meanwhile, Obama — hailing it as a "historic day" — pressed forward his flagship health-care program.

"This is life-or-death stuff," Obama said.

He said tens of thousands of Americans die each year for lack of health insurance. "Today we begin to free millions of our fellow Americans from that fear," the president added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go home, folks: A U.S. Park Police officer helps to close down the Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES



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Animal-rights activists hold solemn memorial

Animal Liberation Victoria activists hold dead animals at Federation Square on Tuesday in Melbourne, Australia. More than 200 activists gathered with the bodies of dead animals to publicly grieve their deaths. Animal Liberation Victoria is against the treatment of animals as "property" and promotes a vegan lifestyle. Also on Tuesday, wildlife officials in Zimbabwe said at least 91 elephants were poisoned with cyanide by poachers who hack off their tusks for the lucrative illegal ivory market. GRAHAM DENHOLM/GETTY IMAGES

Syria. Chemical weapons team arrives in Damascus to destroy Assad's arsenal

Wading into the world spotlight, international inspectors arrived in Damascus on Tuesday to begin the monumental task of overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons in the middle of a civil war.

The inspectors from a Netherlands-based chemical-weapons watchdog have around nine months to complete their mission: Finding, dismantling and eliminating President Bashar Assad's estimated 1,000-ton arsenal.

Their task has been endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution that calls for Syria's chemical stockpile to be scrapped by mid-2014. The deadline is the tightest that the experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have ever faced. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crossing the border

An advance team of 19 inspectors and 14 UN staff members arrived in Damascus late Tuesday afternoon in a 19-vehicle convoy escorted from the Lebanese border by two Syrian Foreign Ministry representatives.

- The experts set up a logistics base for its immediate work, the UN said in a statement.

Foreign affairs

Canada doing 'everything it can' for 2 held in Egypt

At the behest of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the government is doing "absolutely everything it can" to secure the release of two Canadians held in Egypt, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says.

John Greyson and Tarek Loubani were ordered detained for another 45 days on the weekend.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Myanmar

Buddhist mobs kill woman, 94, torch 70 homes

Buddhist mobs killed a 94-year-old Muslim woman and torched more than 70 homes on Tuesday as sectarian violence again gripped Myanmar's Rakhine state, officials and residents said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Different model

- If it's successful, Scribd could help publishers cultivate an alternative to the electronic bookstores run by Amazon, Apple and Google.

Online document-sharing site Scribd is taking a page from Netflix's success story as it sets out to create the world's largest subscription service for digital books.

The opening chapter in Scribd's quest began Tuesday with the introduction of an e-book subscription service that will boast thousands of titles published by HarperCollins before July 2012. HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corp., becomes the first of the five largest U.S. publishers to join a service vying to create an alternative to buying individual titles.

Scribd will charge $9 US per month for a service that offers unlimited access to most of HarperCollins' back catalogue, as well as an assortment of other books from smaller publishers. Recent bestsellers from HarperCollins aren't included in the subscription service, although customers will be able to buy new titles individually on Scribd's site.

"I feel we are moving into new uncharted waters, but that's what innovating and reading is all about," said HarperCollins CEO Brian Murray.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happy... Batik Day?

Models show off outfits by designer Embran Nawawi, who launched a new line of Maduranese stamp batik clothing on Tuesday in Surabaya, Indonesia. On Oct. 2, 2009, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) formally recognized Indonesian batik as a world heritage tradition, and since then, the date has been used to mark Batik Day. ROBERTUS PUDYANTO/GETTY IMAGES

Market Minute

DOLLAR
96.85¢
(-0.21¢)

TSX 12,847.44 (+60.25)

OIL $102.04 US (-29¢)

GOLD $1,286.10 US (-$40.90)

Natural gas: $3.61 US (+5¢)
Dow Jones: 15,191.70 (+62.03)

Telecom

'Dirt cheap' mobile prices can't last, report concludes

A new report says that Canada's small wireless companies have undercut Rogers, Bell and Telus by more than half on voice and data prices in recent years, giving consumers lower cellphone bills. But it also says that these prices aren't sustainable.

The report by the Convergence Consulting Group says Wind Mobile, Public Mobile and Mobilicity — which is now under creditor protection — can't keep offering "dirt cheap" prices and stay in business.

As a result, the report says, the new players will have to bring up their prices to survive and expand their networks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TRUE PATRIOT GENDER-NEUTRAL LOVE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Oh, Canada, here we go again.

Another attempt to revise the lyrics of our national anthem.

This time, a group of prominent Canadian women including Margaret Atwood and Kim Campbell want to change "In all thy sons command" to "In all of us command," which is OK by me. I could never quite get my head around, "In all thy sons command," anyway. It's not as if we talk like that.

"Like, true patriot love in all thy sons command."

"Whatever, dude."

The point is, the prominent women are feeling left out. They want Canada to command an upwelling of true patriot love in female glowing hearts as well, and who can blame them?

Of course, some people think it's a bad idea to mess with the lyrics of our national anthem. Is nothing sacred etc.? It might help them to know that the original 1908 lyrics include the phrase "thou dost in us command" which makes no sense at all but at least it's gender neutral.

They should also know that O Canada wasn't even our official national anthem until 1980. Before that it was God Save the Queen, which, like the Queen, goes on forever. O Canada is much snappier, especially now that some of the "dosts" "thous" "thees" and "thys" have been eliminated.

In the face of the argument that the prominent women are only seeking a revision of the revision, traditionalists will fall back on the problem that if you mess with one line, the whole thing opens up, encouraging people with nothing better to do than lobby for new words to the national anthem.

Take "our home and native land," for instance. In 1990, Toronto City Council actually voted to encourage the government to change it to "our home and cherished land" because some non-native Canadians might feel left out.

Not to worry. They're too busy trying to figure out "true patriot love in all thy sons command."

Meanwhile, the next generation has tuned out. According to a 2010 University of Victoria survey, nearly 70 per cent of high school students enrolled in choir don't know the lyrics to O Canada, regardless of the version. And that's the in-tune student body. Presumably the fail among the general population is even higher.

Traditionalists will argue that's because they don't sing the song at the start of the day at school anymore, and maybe they're right. In fact, the only place we do sing it is at football and baseball games, usually alongside the Star Spangled Banner, which doesn't make any sense either.

But that's OK. It's an opportunity for Beyoncé or Nikki Yanofsky to look good and sound good while they funk up the tune.

After all, we stand on guard for what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming from far and wide. Don't we?

Visit metronews.ca to watch the video and share your opinion.

ZOOM

The horror of war in numbers

THEFALLEN9000.INFO PHOTOS

Stenciled bodies recall Normandy

In an awe-inspiring and emotional project, the silhouettes of 9,000 bodies were stenciled on a beach in Normandy, France, as a tribute to those who died during the Second World War.

Titled The Fallen 9000, the work served as a visual reminder of the Allied and German forces, and civilians, who died during the D-Day beach landings at Arromanches on June 6, 1944. METRO

Concept to creation

"It was a quiet and emotional statement about what happens in the absence of peace. After I made my first figure, I broke down crying."

Jamie Wardley, artist
Wardley, 33, came up with the idea for the project with Andy Moss, 50

Silhouettes erased but impression lasts

The two sculptors came up with the idea for the International Day of Peace, a global observance day instituted by the UN.

The sculptors from Bradford, England, spent two years organizing the event. The silhouettes were later erased by the tide, but the project's effect lives on.

"Veterans are telling me how it brought home the impact war has," artist Jamie Wardley said. METRO

About 200 volunteers from various backgrounds and ages raked with stencils.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

You know you've made an impact when you get an asteroid named after you, right? Web comic creator Randall (XKCD) Munroe (now of the Asteroid 4942 fame) has proven comedy and science/math/language/smart stuff can go hand in hand. Running since 2005, XKCD comics have evolved from scanned doodles to 3,000-panel time lapse nerd jokes. Though Munroe is one of the web comedy pioneers, he's certainly not alone.

CONTRIBUTED

Perry Bible Fellowship:

Running as a weekly comic in the mid-2000s, getting a book deal in 2011 and now publishing 'whenever,' PBF's humping dinosaurs, pregnant teenage chickens and bad apples are a staple of Internet comics.

Dinosaur Comics:

Celebrating its 2,500th (at least according to the URL) comic Tuesday, Dinosaur Comics somehow manages to keep the LOLs rolling using the same six panels featuring a green T-Rex and a gay (they say) Utahraptor.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A chemical used to make plastic was found on a Saturn moon. How do you feel knowing that outer space is pretty much Tupperware?

@WTarcisio: To me, this is nothing new. My life has not changed at all.

@lester04: is it dishwasher safe?

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Comments

RE: 89-Year-Old Toronto Woman Ready To Go To Jail Over Census Fight, published Oct. 1

This woman has excellent intentions but there are many other places to have an impact in the world.

These companies are involved in all kind of industries. Wars don't happen because of war industries, much as we would like to believe this because it absolves us of responsibility. **BugsBunny posted to metronews.ca**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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Gravity can get heavy but it will pull you in nonetheless. CONTRIBUTED

Stomaching zero-gravity

Interview. Alfonso Cuarón talks about making space film and surviving the Vomit Comet

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Alfonso Cuarón apologizes for the delay in bringing his latest film, Gravity, to the masses, but properly presenting outer space turned out to be a tough nut to crack. And rest assured, the results are worth the wait. Plus, Cuarón got to discover a new favourite past-time: Experiencing zero-gravity on the Vomit Comet.

I suppose my first question after seeing this film is: how?
Well, the first thing is we're trying to do a film that takes place in space but that looks like those Imax documentaries that you're used to seeing. We didn't want it to look like a comic book or a fantasy rendering of space. So that was the point of the departure. The rest of the conversation was, "OK, how the heck are we going to do it?" So we tried several existing technologies. Nothing existed that we could use so we had to invent our own tools. And then four and a half years later, here we are.

You just get such fluid camera motion, which you've always had, but it's amplified here.
It's because there's no up and there's no down. That's the thing, we wanted to honour the physics and the mechanics in zero-G, including not only the character and the objects but the camera. A lot of that was informed by doing tests in different systems and possibilities, including parabolic flights — the Vomit Comet. Once you're floating you don't have much control. Your inertia dictates how you move. We talked about that, that the camera was also in zero-G, the camera is not controlled.

Did you get sick on the Vomit Comet?
No, I loved it. The stunt man actually threw up, but I didn't. I loved it, I loved it. It's really amazing, it's so much fun. And I'm a wimp with roller coasters, I cannot stand them. But this one, I could do it all day long. The beautiful thing of the parabolic flight is when you start floating, for me it was one of those things that felt almost primal and familiar.

Did you feel much resistance from the studio about the idea of a female lead?
No, no. There's the expression in the film, "Houston in the blind," which is a real expression when there's no communication, and the studio was in the blind. They were paying all this money to develop a technology that we didn't know was going to work, then investing in a shoot that we didn't know was going to work, then on top of that after the shoot they weren't able to see anything for eight months. And then we arrived to our release date a year ago and we were not ready. They said, "Do you need a couple of months?" "No, we need a year." And they had to keep on going. And with Sandy, yeah obviously when you are at some early stage there are voices that say, "Why don't you do it with a male lead? It's more exciting and we can have these actors. These kind of movies work better with a male lead." Yeah, you have some voices, but the moment that I said that I couldn't envision this film with a male lead, they were OK with it. There was no huge pressure.

I still get angry about the botched release of Children of Men, which was criminally overlooked when it came out.
I guess it was the release and stuff, but frankly maybe it was that it didn't connect with audiences, you know?

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Jodie Foster has a new girl

Jodie Foster and photographer Alexandra Hedison are reportedly dating, according to E! News.

"It's pretty serious," a source says. "They're totally in love." Hedison previously dated Ellen DeGeneres before the talk show host got involved with Portia de Rossi.

Jodie Foster

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The Word

Cher still has no problem telling it like it is

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
Metro World News

You know who is one of the baddest mamba jambas in the music industry, to this day? Cher. Do not even try and tell me that Cher is not the coolest old lady around, because I am armed with irrefutable evidence with which to counter you.

Firstly, she called out Madonna — one of the other old ladies still behaving like a boss in the biz — for being, well, for being kind of a B. Secondly, she threw said shade at Madge in a Reddit forum.

Yes! Cher is older than my mother, who has just barely mastered the fine art of electronic mail, but the lady is well-versed in the ways of the Internet netherregions.

Over the weekend, she logged on for an Ask me Anything open forum on Reddit (oh, by the way, she introduces herself on said forum thusly: "Hi, I'm Cher, I'm 100 years old") during which someone asked why she hated Madonna.

Cher, being the classy yet truth-spitting broad that she is, responded, "I never hated her; I just thought she was a bitch."

And that, my friends, is 'nuff said.

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Italy

There IS something to rent in Tuscany

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Want to plan the perfect week in Tuscany? Here's how to make this bucket list holiday to Italy a reality.

Vacation at a villa. Do your research and compile a list of must–haves such as Internet access, swimming pool and number of bedrooms required. Get testimonials from past guests. The pleasant surprise with a villa is a large group will often pay less than they would in a hotel. I recently rented a gorgeous 500-year-old villa outside of Cortona with eight friends and it cost us $500 per person for the week.

Rent a car or bike. Iconic Italian cities like Florence and Siena are easily accessible and worth exploring, but to truly discover the hidden gems of Tuscany, you need your own wheels. The charming towns of Montepulciano, Cortona and San Gimignano are just a few worth the visit.

Taste the local flavours. Forget fusion; a good meal in Tuscany is about celebrating what's in season. Make sure to sample the regional specialties, such as Florentine steak and Pienza's pecorino cheese.

And of course, hit a winery. Many of the wineries in Tuscany do not like walk-ins, especially if you are travelling in larger groups, so call and reserve a tasting in advance.

The beach at the Fairmont Southampton hotel is perfect for swimming. The rocks off shore make a great diving spot, too. JIM BYERS/METRO

Soak it up in Bermuda

Kick back. The weather is hot and the vibe is cool in this tropical paradise

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

You probably know about the golf. And you might think there are a lot of guys in funny shorts and long socks. But Bermuda is more hip than you might expect.

Drinking

There are two traditional drinks in Bermuda. The Dark and Stormy has ginger beer, dark Gosling's rum (no other kind counts) and lime juice. Folks rave about Bermuda's Rum Swizzles but I found the one I tried at the famous White Horse Tavern in Bermuda far too sweet. In the main town of Hamilton, the Pickled Onion is a sleek affair that wouldn't look out of place in Toronto's Yorkville or Vancouver's Yaletown. When I was there drinks included "Pink Panties" and "The Black Banana." Ahem. Flanagan's Irish Pub on Front Street in Hamilton has reasonable prices and a second-storey patio overlooking the harbour.

Sleeping

The Fairmont Southampton is a pink beauty on a hill along the south shore. There's a great beach and it's adjacent to marvellous Horseshoe Bay. Rooms in October go from about $330 a night. I stayed at a casual but adorable spot in the village of St. George's called the Crooked Elbow, close to a couple of nice beaches and cool forts and only a short walk from shops and pubs. It's got lots of space and goes for about $150 a night in high season, with a five night minimum.

Dining

St. George's has a couple of places on the waterfront, including Tavern on the Sea (decent food; great views). The online reviews are good but at dinner in St. George's I found Wahoo's Bistro only adequate. The Waterlot Inn, affiliated with the Fairmont Southampton, is a stunner. I had a three-steak tasting menu that was $60 but it beat the heck out of Ruth's Chris. The service is terrific and the sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream will have you singing with joy. Stuff yourself at the Jamaica Grill in Hamilton with jerk chicken, rice and peas and other Jamaican delights in a cheap but fun neighbourhood joint. Mickey's sits on the edge of Elbow Beach and you can dine a few inches from the sand. They do a lovely grilled seafood platter with scallops, shrimp, salmon, local fish, octopus and tender calamari, plus veggies and mashed potatoes, for about $40.

Doing

Bermuda is famous for reefs that have caused many a shipwreck; bad if you're a sailor but great if you're a diver. May to October offers the best chance for calm, clear water and is the best time for swimming, especially on exposed south shore beaches. You also can try horseback rides or rent bikes or mopeds, which are everywhere. Or explore the shops and fun streets in St. George's, including Featherbed Alley and Old Maids Lane. Oh, OK, you are a golfer? There are courses galore, none more famous perhaps than Port Royal, where they hold the annual PGA Grand Slam event, featuring the winners of golf's four major tournaments (Oct. 14 to 16 this year). One too many rum swizzles? Climb the Gibbs Hill lighthouse to work off some calories and soak in views of all Bermuda's islands.

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‘Faux’ mini cheesecakes are full of real good-for-you flavour

Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) raw cashews
- 1/2 cup (125 m) chopped pitted dates (about 5)
- 1 lb (500 ml) strawberries
- 1 large fully ripened avocado from Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) coconut oil
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) lemon juice
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) raw agave syrup
- 1/2 tsp (2 m) raw vanilla extract
- 12 fresh strawberries, sliced (garnish)

Crust

- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) chopped or sliced raw almonds
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) shredded unsweetened coconut
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped pitted dates (about 5)

1. In bowl, place cashews and dates. Pour in enough water to cover; let stand for 1 hour. Drain.

2. Meanwhile, mist 24, 1/2 cup (125 ml) ramekins (or other similar-sized freeze-proof molds) with cooking spray. Line each with plastic wrap, leaving enough to create a bit of an overhang for “handles.”

3. Crust: In food processor, add almonds, shredded coconut and salt; pulse until in coarse crumbs. Add dates; pulse until well combined. Divide and press into bottoms of ramekins.

4. In high-power blender, or in clean food processor bowl, add drained cashews and dates, the strawberries, avocado, coconut oil, lemon juice, syrup and vanilla. Process until very smooth. Pour over bases; freeze until firm, at least 2 hours.

Strawberry-Coconut ‘Cheese’ Cake

This recipe makes 24 mini-cake servings. MISSAVACADO.CA

5. Remove from freezer 30 to 60 minutes before serving (or, move to refrigerate up to 1 day ahead); remove plastic wrap, plate individual cakes, and let thaw. To garnish, top each with sliced strawberries.

MISSAVACADO.CA

Drink of the Week

Kick Start PB and J Smoothie

- 1 ripe banana
- 1 cup (250 ml) 3% plain yogurt
- 1 cup (250 ml) ice cubes
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) PC Blue Menu No-Stir Smooth Peanut Butter with Meg-3
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) PC Blue Menu Twice the Fruit Strawberry Spread
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) vanilla

In blender, combine banana, yogurt, ice cubes, peanut butter, strawberry spread and vanilla. Purée until smooth and silky. Divide among four glasses. **PRESIDENT’S CHOICE**

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If it makes you happy to make others happy, and you know where your career passion lies, then get your consulting career cracking! ISTOCK

What are you, some sort of expert or something?

A word to the wise on what it takes to advise. Do you have the goods to take on a career in the consulting field?

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

Above and beyond

You're willing to go the extra mile, and then some

- Solving problems, influencing your clients and creating innovative ideas are just the tip of the iceberg for consultants.
- To be successful, you need to enjoy getting lots done for your clients. Companies hire consultants because they want their expertise, so to impress them you must give that and more — and enjoy doing it!

Are you thinking about a career in consulting?

If so, you're probably wondering what it takes to be successful in the industry.

Since there are many fields within consulting, diverse personalities and dispositions can find an excellent career fit as a consulting professional.

However, successful consultants tend to have a core group of personality traits that they apply to different extents in their discipline.

You're a "people person"

As a consultant, you'll be working with your team and multiple clients, so you're bound to feel like an outsider at some point or another.

Consultants need to be able to remove the barrier between themselves and their clients to build trust and confidence. In order to do this you need to feel comfortable working in different environments and with different people on a daily basis.

You're a multi-tasker

As a consultant, you'll have to constantly manage multiple clients, all of whom come to you with different tasks, questions, concerns and suggestions.

Your plate will always be full. The trick to not getting overwhelmed is to prioritize your tasks effectively so each client's needs are met.

If you find that multitasking comes naturally to you, a career in consulting may just be your calling.

You're passionate

Not only do consultants have to be passionate about their industry; they have to be just as passionate about helping clients. A client can tell if you truly care about his or her success.

You're confident

Everyone has bad days no matter what field they work in. A great consultant can get back on the horse when things aren't going smoothly. While doing this, you'll also need to motivate your team to keep chugging along and provide them with solutions to the problems ahead.

As a consultant you'll get tough feedback, experience set-backs and make difficult decisions. A successful consultant can push through these barriers with confidence.

You're resourceful

Being resourceful is an extremely helpful trait to have as a consultant. This trait will help you know when to ask for advice, and where to find the right information. You can't be scared to ask for help, especially when starting out!

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Program	Campus
Baking and pastry Wednesday, Oct. 9, 10:30 a.m. – room 216	Downtown
Communication for accounting Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. – room 419	Downtown
Communication for engineering and technology Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. – room 419	Downtown
Culinary arts Friday, Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m. – room 112	Downtown
Dental hygiene Wednesday, Oct. 16, 5 p.m. – room 501	Downtown
English for professional advancement Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2 & 4:30 p.m. – room 235	Downtown
Teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) Tuesday, Oct. 8, 12 p.m. – room 518	Downtown
Transportation trades Tuesday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m. – lobby, building B	Broadway

Downtown campus
located at 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton, two blocks west of Stadium SkyTrain station.

Broadway campus
located at 1155 East Broadway, one block west of Clark Drive, across from VCC/Clark SkyTrain station.

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With the right work ethic and dedication, consultants can experience professional growth early on in their careers. According to CNN, the average 10-year salary growth for consultants is 41.2 per cent! ISTOCK

Consult me on this career's highlights

The best of the business. What wonderful perks can be expected from this workforce?

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

While choosing your career path, you may be inclined to do some online research and learn about the pros and cons of the industry.

Of course, research is just one component of exploring a field, as you should also be sure to reach out and network with professionals who can offer insight based on personal experience. Remember, the list doesn't stop here.

There are hundreds of perks to a career in the consulting industry.

Here's a list of some of the major pros of being a consultant.

Flexibility
Since a main part of a consultant's job is to meet with clients, consultants can often have more flexibility with their work hours depending on appointment scheduling. There is also the opportunity to telecommute once you get more settled in your role. This not only leads to being a more productive employee, but it also allows for better work-life balance.

Working in a team environment
The best thing about starting your consulting career is that you definitely won't be going at it alone. You'll have the opportunity to work with team members who share interests, expertise, ideas and work ethic behaviours similar (and different) to yours. This creates the perfect opportunity for career-launching collaboration.

Using your problem solving skills daily
Consultants use their problem solving skills daily to get the job done and make clients happy. There are tons of perks to regularly using problem solving skills including: excitement, gratification, busy days and being creative.

Every day is different
Consulting is not your typical 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. desk job. As a new grad, this is something that you should appreciate. The transition from school to work can be tough when you're suddenly thrown into a regular work schedule. As a consultant, you'll break this boring cycle by constantly tackling new problems and changing up your schedule.

Exceptional training and on-boarding
Often times when starting off as a consultant, the company you're hired on with will give you awesome training or on-boarding to get things started off on the right foot. The goal of on-boarding/training is to set you up for success, so during this training you can expect to receive the resources, knowledge and tools to do so.

Continuous learning
Consultants are the experts, which means they're always learning and adapting to new trends in their industry. The great thing about staying on your toes is that clients appreciate it because you'll be able to develop relevant and successful ideas. Though it might sound overwhelming to always be on top of news and trends, it will eventually become habit — and the results are worth it!

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It's party time!

A consulting career can be glamorous: fancy suits, big clients, and most of all, exciting events.

- Networking efficiently is one way to be a successful consultant. It's therefore crucial to enjoy getting out there and being sociable with potential, current, and previous clients.
- This can be through a coffee meeting, lunch briefing, dinner appointment, or a big networking event out on the town.

Activities. Get excited about fall

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Fall provides an abundance of family-friendly activities for parents and kids. Get excited about fall with some of these fun ideas.

Go "leafing"
"Talk with your kids about why the seasons change and collect leaves from different trees," said Katie Bugbee, senior managing editor and global parenting expert for care.com. "When you get home, have kids make leaf rubbings by taping a leaf to cardboard, layering a piece of paper over it and gently colouring over the leaf with a crayon."

Visit a farmers' market
It's harvest time and with so many fruits and vegetables in season, there is plenty for kids to see and do and lots of good things to eat.

Volunteer
During this special season of thanks, volunteering is a great family activity. "Choose a charity that's important to your family and figure out the best way to give back," Bugbee said. "Consider raking leaves at a nursing home or helping out at a local animal shelter. Kids will look forward to volunteering if you make it a fun and personal experience."

Make a giving tree
"This is a great opportunity for the entire family to think about all the wonderful things that have happened in the last year," Bugbee said. Cut out paper leaves and have family members write what they are thankful for on them. Then attach them to a paper cutout of a tree.

Pick out a pumpkin
Kids are already getting excited about Halloween, so find a local pumpkin patch and make a day of it. Instead of carving a jack-o'-lantern this year, decorate your pumpkin with glitter, buttons or paint.

Volunteering, like raking leaves at a nursing home, is a great family activity. FUSE/THINKSTOCK

There is something romantic and nostalgic about picking apples in the crisp, cool air amid the beautiful colours of fall. ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Couples can turn over a new leaf

Cosy up for fall with some outdoor fun to enjoy with your special someone. Connect with one of these fall favourites, recommended by Lavalife's Carmelia Ray, Lava365.com dating and relationship expert:

Check out an Oktoberfest event. It's a great date idea for couples. "Exploring different foods and cultures allows you to enjoy new experiences and create new traditions together."

Go apple picking. There is something romantic and nostalgic about the crisp, cool air and the beautiful colours of fall. "Visit a local orchard, then take home your freshly picked apples and make your own apple juice, ciders, pastries and apple pie."

Knock something off your bucket list together. What's more memorable than doing those things you have always dreamed about doing with someone you love? "These moments make some of the best lasting memories and experiences a couple can share."

Plan an outdoor photo or video shoot. Taking pictures of each other is fun and romantic. "Social sharing apps like Instagram or Pic Stitch let you quickly capture special moments in a fun and easy way."

Shop for Halloween costumes or make your own. Dedicate an afternoon to finding outfits that really play to your personalities. "I always like to encourage couples to step outside of their comfort zone and get a little adventurous. Get creative and have fun spending time together."

Go for an outdoor hike or bike ride. "Couples who play together stay together." Physical activity has many health benefits, and the bonus is you can have a lot of fun getting active. "And couples who share the same lifestyle and health habits actually live longer and experience a closer bond." MICHELLE WILLIAMS

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Canucks centre Dalpe embraces BCHL roots

NHL. Zac Dalpe looks to stick in Vancouver after Saturday's trade

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Zac Dalpe has set considerable hockey roots in British Columbia, both as a fan and player.

And that's despite time zones and thousands of kilometres from his hometown of Paris, Ont., and playing professionally in the Carolina Hurricanes system.

Dalpe, a 23-year-old centre the Canucks acquired in a trade with the Hurricanes on Saturday, played a season with the Penticton Vees in the British Columbia Hockey League under the guidance of head coach Fred Harbinson.

His younger brother, Ben Dalpe, now plays for the Vees and is committed to Clarkson University.

They also share the same billet family according to Zac, although their stays come about six years apart.

"It's all kind of come full circle," said Dalpe on Tuesday, following practice at Rogers Arena.

"He was 11 when I played there … and he's got a scholarship like I did, so it's cool."

With Harbinson behind the bench, the Vees won the Fred Page Cup as the BCHL champions in 2008. Dalpe had a nice season, collecting 27 goals and 63 points in 46 regular-season games. It was a fulfilling stop on his way to Ohio State University, and eventually the Hurricanes organization.

Zac Dalpe prepares for a faceoff against the Florida Panthers on Jan. 19 in Sunrise, Florida. JOEL AUERBACH/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Sedin mum on contract situation

Henrik Sedin says there is "no news" in discussions about a possible contract extension between him and his twin brother Daniel and the Vancouver Canucks.

- The Sedin brothers, both 33 years of age, are now in the final year of their five-year contracts, each worth $30.5 million.
- "That's up to management and (the Sedins' agent) J.P. Barry," said Henrik Sedin on Tuesday. "We're focused on getting ready. When they come to us and they have something for us, then we'll talk about it."

Dalpe also grew up a fan of the Canucks. Hard to imagine with Southern Ontario typically reserved for fans of the Maple Leafs.

"I was such a Pavel Bure fan growing up and it kind of just stuck. When my mom wanted to know what colour she could paint my room, it was Canucks colours," he said.

There's a good chance Dalpe, who comes to Vancouver with a cap hit of $550,000 on a one-year deal, will be dressed in Canucks colours Thursday.

The Canucks open the season on the road against the San Jose Sharks.

Tuesday, he skated on the fourth line between wingers Dale Weise and Tom Sestito.

"This is my fourth year as a pro, so I think there are some things to prove and I'm looking to do that," said Dalpe. "Hopefully I can show that here."

MLB

Canadian Martin provides homer heroics in Pirates' wild-card win

Russell Martin homered twice, Marlon Byrd also connected and the Pittsburgh Pirates roared past Cincinnati for a 6-2 victory in the NL wild-card game Tuesday night.

In front of a black-clad crowd savouring its first post-season game since 1992, Andrew McCutchen added two hits and reached base four times for Pittsburgh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pirates catcher Russell Martin
GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Jays pitcher has elbow surgery

Toronto Blue Jays right-hander Josh Johnson underwent successful arthroscopic surgery Tuesday to remove loose bodies and a bone spur in his right elbow.

Johnson is expected to be ready for spring training next year.

The 29-year-old native of Minneapolis, Minn., had a 2-8 record and 6.20 earned-run average over 16 appearances this year. He allowed 105 hits and 15 home runs over 81 1/3 innings pitched.

Johnson earned $13.75 million this past season with the Blue Jays. The club has yet to confirm whether it intends to extend Johnson a qualifying offer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bighill lands CFL award after huge game

Lions linebacker Adam Bighill
COURTESY CFL

Adam Bighill was stumped.

In his time as a professional football player, he couldn't remember something quite like what he experienced last Friday when the BC Lions dismantled an inept Winnipeg Blue Bombers team.

Bighill, a linebacker in the B.C. defence and in his third year with the Lions, had 10 tackles, two forced fumbles and a sack.

Oh, and a 30-yard fumble returned for a touchdown on the first Winnipeg play from the line of scrimmage. His performance earned him CFL Defensive Player of the Week honours.

"In college I've had a game like that, but not in professional football. Not in professional football at all," said Bighill in a phone interview Tuesday.

What he and the Lions defence accomplished in Winnipeg was something to behold.

Bighill's touchdown was the first of three major scores that came from the Lions defence, which was up against an overwhelmed Bombers offence.

"Right now we're coming together and playing with a lot of confidence," said Bighill.

Up next is a West Division contest against the Saskatchewan Roughriders. It's the return of Geroy Simon to BC Place Stadium.

Simon, who spent 12 years with the Lions and now with the Roughriders, set the new CFL record for most career receptions on Sunday, surpassing the previous standard held by Alouettes' great Ben Cahoon.

The Lions have won three straight; the Riders have lost four in a row. A win, and the Lions would, perhaps temporarily, move into a tie in points with the Calgary Stampeders atop the West.

"Really … this altogether is the most important game of the year," said Bighill.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Canucks core, coach the keys to a crack at the Cup

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ronnie Shuker
vancouver@metronews.ca

It's been almost two decades since the Canucks lost Game 7 of the 1994 final to the New York Rangers by just one goal. So it'd be sweet, sweet symmetry to get back there again 20 years later — with a different result, of course.

Three key factors figure to make or break the Canucks in their attempt at that 20th anniversary return: injuries, realignment and coaching.

Their stars need to stay healthy, because if they don't, that means the supporting cast will have to handle roles those players aren't fit to play.

In 2010-11, the Sedins, Ryan Kesler and Roberto Luongo all stayed off the injured list, and the Canucks made it all the way to Game 7 of the final. They need similar luck with their core this season.

On the back end, the defence is deep but injury-prone. It can't afford to lose one or more of its top four — Alexander Edler, Jason Garrison, Dan Hamhuis and Kevin Bieksa — for an extended period. And with Eddie Lack getting his first taste of the NHL, Vancouver won't want to play him more than 15-20 games. If he's pressed into more playing time, the season could go south in a hurry.

To get back to the Cup final, the Canucks will have to go through the toughest division in the Western Conference, if not the entire NHL.

Realignment has relocated them into the Pacific Division with Los Angeles and San Jose, the two teams that have knocked them out of the playoffs the past two seasons, as well as Anaheim, which finished third overall last season.

This, though, may actually be a good thing. Since 2005-06, Vancouver has a .593 points percentage against teams in its new division, which includes Calgary, Edmonton and Phoenix. Continued success is critical.

Then there's the John Tortorella factor. With Tampa Bay and New York, he took over middling teams in midseason and turned one into a Stanley Cup champion and the other a Cup contender, each three years later.

He has that much time, or less, to bring Vancouver its first Cup before the window on the Canucks' core closes for good. The Sedins, Luongo, Bieksa, Hamhuis and Alexandre Burrows are all in their early 30s, and Kesler is 29.

Canucks head coach John Tortorella could be the key to giving Vancouver another shot at the Stanley Cup. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The core

Their stars need to stay healthy, because if they don't, that means the supporting cast will have to handle roles those players aren't fit to play.

Three Canucks to watch

Roberto Luongo

Lu is a slow starter, but the Canucks need to stick with him. Since 2006-07, he has a 28-27-1 record in October, and a 205-94-40 record the rest of the season.

The Sedins

Henrik and Daniel must be money up front, because there isn't much in the way of scoring behind them. Vancouver was tied for 19th in goals last season.

Ryan Kesler

Much like Trevor Linden was for the Canucks, Kesler has to be the no guts, no glory player he was two seasons ago for Vancouver to have a chance at the Cup.

Central Division predictions

1. Los Angeles Kings

Last season: 27-16-5, 59 points, 5th seed in West, lost in conference final to Chicago.
How they make the playoffs: Goaltender Jonathan Quick, with a brief Sochi appearance in between, has a consistent season even with Jonathan Bernier gone. Some minor roster changes show that some turnover is good after winning a Stanley Cup in 2012.
How they miss: The same injuries that depleted the Kings in the playoffs refuse to go away. Quick somehow falls apart.

2. Vancouver Canucks

Last season: 26-15-7, 59 points, 3rd seed in West, lost in conference quarter-finals to San Jose.
How they make the playoffs: Coach John Tortorella's defence-first, shot-blocking system makes Roberto Luongo look like Ken Dryden in his prime. Daniel and Henrik Sedin score plenty of goals in transition.
How they miss: The Sedins don't like playing Tortorella hockey, which isn't a fit for such a skilled group of forwards.

3. San Jose Sharks

Last season: 25-16-7, 57 points, 6th seed in West, lost in conference semifinals to Los Angeles.
How they make the playoffs: Antti Niemi shows his Vezina Trophy finalist season was no fluke, giving a talented group in front of him a chance to win every time he starts.
How they miss: The conversion of Brent Burns to a forward doesn't pay dividends on the scoresheet and hurts the Sharks badly on the blue-line.

4. Anaheim Ducks

Last season: 30-12-6, 66 points, 2nd seed in West, lost in conference semifinals to Detroit.
How they make the playoffs: Still in their primes, Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry continue to put up impressive numbers, joined by Jakob Silfverberg, who is almost as good as Bobby Ryan. The goaltending situation with Viktor Fasth and Jonas Hiller works itself out.
How they miss: Sheldon Souray's wrist injury is a crushing blow to the Ducks, especially on the power play.

5. Edmonton Oilers

Last season: 19-22-7, 45 points, 12th in West, missed playoffs by 10 points.
How they make the playoffs: Dallas Eakins looks like the perfect young coach to get this team over the hump. The core of Taylor Hall, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Jordan Eberle and Nail Yakupov plays well together.
How they miss: The same reason as years past: The defence isn't good enough. Goalie Devan Dubnyk isn't the answer.

6. Phoenix Coyotes

Last season: 21-18-9, 51 points, 10th in West, missed playoffs by 4 points.
How they make the playoffs: Ribeiro makes things happen offensively, most notably as a power-play star. The combination of stable ownership and a contending team makes for a great in-arena atmosphere and a bright future in Arizona.
How they miss: Mike Smith falters when forced to steal games for the Coyotes, who don't have enough firepower.

7. Calgary Flames

Last season: 19-25-4, 42 points, 13th in West, missed playoffs by 13 points.
How they make the playoffs: Everything goes right, as Karri Ramo turns into a star after his stint in the KHL and leads the league in shutouts. Injuries ravage the rest of the Pacific Division, while young players like Sean Monahan grow up fast.
How they miss: Goaltending is, predictably, a disaster, and a team lacking in talent from top to bottom has a historically bad season.

NHL. Caps busted up by champion Blackhawks

Brandon Saad, Johnny Oduya and Marian Hossa scored in the third period, and the Chicago Blackhawks kicked off their Stanley Cup title defence with a 6-4 victory over Mikhail Grabovsky and the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night.

Patrick Kane, Brent Seabrook and Brandon Bollig also scored for Chicago, which won its first game for the second straight season. Corey Crawford made 28 saves, including a couple of huge stops when the Blackhawks killed off a late five-on-three power play.

Chicago ruined Los Angeles' title celebration with a 5-2 victory in last season's opener, and then set an NHL record by recording at least one point in its first 24 games. The fast start played a key role in the Blackhawks' run to the Stanley Cup title, and coach Joel Quenneville made it clear that another opening surge is a priority.

Grabovsky had three goals and an assist in his first game since signing with Washington in August. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Jets blow by Oilers in 3rd-period comeback

Michael Frolik scored a pair of goals as the Winnipeg Jets came from behind to spoil Edmonton's home opener with a 5-4 victory over the Oilers on Tuesday.

Tied 4-4 with five minutes to play, Eric Tangradi sent a beautiful backhand pass in front to Frolik, who directed his second of the season into the net before Oilers goalie Devan Dubnyk could get back across the crease.

Jacob Trouba also scored and added an assist in his first NHL game for the Jets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Jets' Evander Kane checks Jordan Eberle on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The 2013 Toyota RAV4

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Review. Toyota's aim to recreate success of '90s model falls short but reliability is still assured

The 2013 Toyota RAV4

- **Top speed.** 185km/h
- **Engines (hp).** Four 2.0 litre or plus options available
- **0 to 100km/h.** 10.0 sec.
- **Fuel consumption** 5.9/100km
- **Base price (incl. destination)** From $23,790

Interior

The interior is spacious and the trunk is big but the cabin is letdown by the use of some hard plastics and dull styling. The new RAV4 doesn't feel as lovely as it should.

Exterior

The unusual styling that the RAV4 was known for has been replaced by a far more generic-looking SUV. Its body has sharper edges and a stronger grille but it has lost some of its unique RAV4 personality, which is a shame.

Performance

The ride is too firm, resulting in a car that doesn't feel particularly relaxing to drive or comfortable around town. Even our test of the 2.2-litre diesel auto AWD version (not available in Canada) didn't feel fast and required frequent gear changes to get the most out of it.

When Toyota introduced its RAV4 model back in 1994 it was an unusual, quirky and clever car. Stylish to look at, it created a whole new segment for compact crossover SUVs; there was even a three-door version, which is unusual even now.

The vehicle was aimed at trendy, young, (mostly) urban drivers, but in the 19 years since its release, the competition has got much tougher and Toyota has rather fallen off the pace. Toyota is aiming to attract a range of different drivers with this latest model, which is why the 2013 RAV4 is available in five configurations, with 2.5-litre gas, all-wheel drive and continuously variable transmission (CVT), a 2.5-litre diesel with front-wheel drive and six-speed manual transmission and a 2.5-litre diesel with four-wheel drive. However, all models in Canada are only available in six-speed automatic transmission using only gas.

This fourth generation RAV4 (which stands for Recreational Active Vehicle, Four-Wheel Drive) aims to elevate Toyota back to the top of the class with a RAV4 which is bigger, better and more practical than ever. The biggest new feature in the 2013 RAV4 is the rear lift gate which opens upwards (earlier models had the door opening sideways) and the rear-mounted spare tire is now inside the vehicle.

Best thing

Despite its failings, the new 2013 Toyota RAV4 is a safe choice for sensible drivers who will be happy with its middle-of-the-road performance; who don't want a car to be desirable but dependable.

Worst thing

The "sport button," which is supposed to add pace and drama, is so badly tucked away that you have to search for it. Worst of all, switching it on only seems to increase the engine noise — not the engine's response — so its sporty paddle shifters feel impotent.

METRO

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The side and front profiles of Toyota's latest concept vehicle, the i-Road.

What congestion? Future of parking is autonomous

Autopilot. Smaller vehicles will play their part too just like Toyota's new i-Road concept car-bike

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

I was pessimistically driving around for a good while, trying to find a parking spot in a very congested part of town. Then, miraculously, it appeared — the perfect spot. It couldn't have been any closer to the busy street I was headed to, and it couldn't have been any cheaper (it was free).

When I got out of the car, I caught the eye of an old guy watering the lawn nearby. "Son," he said, "you just won the lottery."

After some initial pain that parking episode had a happy ending. But parking in cities is just generally pain on pain — expensive, frustrating, a wasteful use of fuel when you're in search mode, and it chokes up city streets, and adds to congestion woes.

So it was interesting to hear recently, from an esteemed group of future thinkers, how the combination of self-driving vehicles, smaller vehicles and information technology, could one day transform how vehicles are parked in city centres. The speakers were part of the Meeting of the Minds series, which focuses on urban sustainability issues. The international series stopped in Canada for the first time, in late September, in Toronto.

In his talk, Jim Pisz, who oversees Toyota's future vehicle technologies for North America, noted that the drive to create self-driving vehicles is currently motivated by safety, but the technology can also make cities better.

"Think about a city that is congestion free, a landscape not dominated by the parked car," said Pisz.

Because of cultural and legal clouds, Toyota and Pisz don't see fully autonomous driving happening anytime soon. But the components that enable autonomous driving could be employed sooner, for something like this: Go to work. Tell the car to go park itself. Call it later and have it come to you. The vehicle could also be in a car share model, where other people use it during the day.

Toyota also believes a change to vehicles the size of something like Toyota's i-Road concept vehicle, which seats two in tandem, could significantly decrease the amount of parking areas needed by cities. These vehicles could also go "autonomous," said Pisz.

He added that the cascading effect of using smaller vehicles, perpendicular parking and more off-street and better parking structures catering to self-parking cars could mean that cities could potentially get back 25 per cent of its paved street areas.

"And that could mean more and wider pedestrian walkways, more bike lanes, more dedicated transit lanes, a reduction in congestion, and a better quality of life."

Standing in the way are those cultural and legal issues, but also the "data" piece.

"Self parking cars need to be connected to your city's servers," Pisz told the audience.

"The big challenge will be to serve up a reliable real-time dynamic data base for open parking spaces. It will be a monstrous job — a moon shot for many cities. But in 50 years or sometime closer, there may be only two kinds of cities out there: Cities that are defined as autonomous; cities that are defined as non-autonomous."

The i-Road could well be a vision of the future. BOTH IMAGES CONTRIBUTED/TOYOTA

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun and Pluto will send your emotions into overdrive today. If there is someone in your life who doubts your love and desire they won't be left in any doubt at all over the next few days. You're on fire.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Demand that work colleagues and employers treat you with the respect you deserve. And if they don't? Then you will just have to look around for better people to work with and for.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may find it hard to control your emotions today but that's good. Usually you're so happy-go-lucky people think you never get annoyed but it isn't true and they must know.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Quick decisions are not always good decisions, so take your time and get it right. Some people may be annoyed that you can't seem to make up your mind about something but their feelings don't count.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may be tempted to walk away from a situation that is getting you down but if you do you are likely to regret it. With the Sun at odds with Pluto today this is not a good time for grand gestures.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your natural distrust could cost you today, especially if you hesitate to take advantage of what appears to be a genuine proposal. Common sense should tell you the offer is legit.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your head and heart will pull you in different directions today. If you are smart, you will realize whatever you choose will have consequences, so put off making a decision until the end of the week.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have worked hard to get to your present position and have no intention of letting others take it away from you. Today's Sun-Pluto link will bring a challenge of some sort. Are you up to it? Of course you are.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Opportunities you never knew existed will come knocking over the next few days but each will have a responsibility attached, so think carefully before you take advantage.

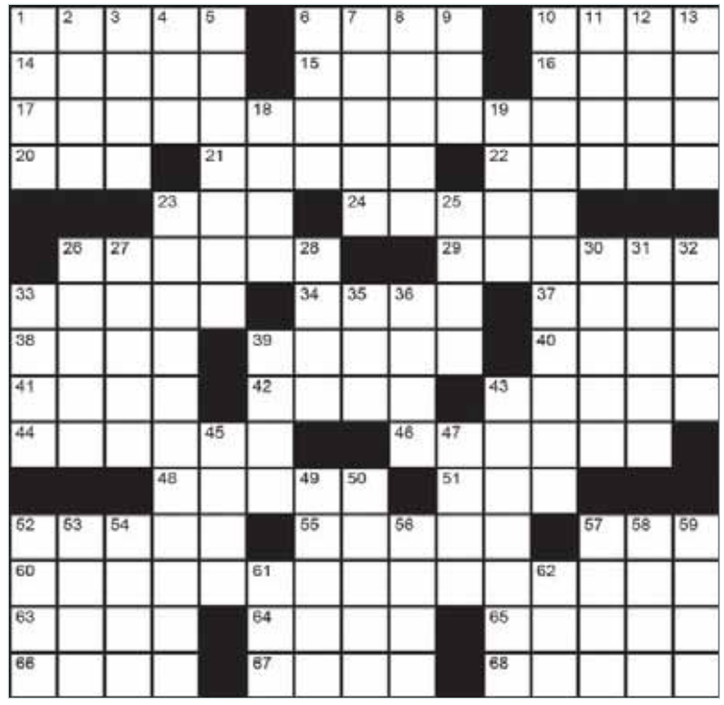
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are always ambitious and always competitive but the current cosmic picture could make you excessively determined to win. Be careful who you annoy on the way up — because you might meet them again on the way down.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The planets suggest you are well placed to move up in the world. All you have to do is get serious about your dreams. A change of scenery could change your outlook.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It's good make grand plans for your future but can you afford to make a big leap forward of some kind now? If not, start small. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

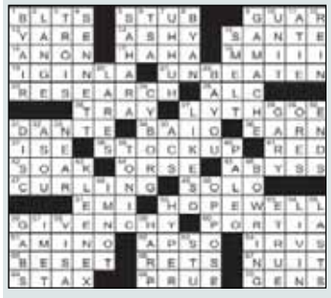
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Chocolate substitute
6. Mater's mate
10. Street performer
14. Earth's sky layer
15. Toilets, British-style
16. Paradise
17. Like the people at #26-Across: 2 wds.
20. Surgery sites, for short
21. "Have a Little Faith in Me" by John __
22. "Bust _ __" by Young MC
23. Certain conifer
24. Car company
26. Prehistoric culture of North America
29. Sci-Fi writer, Isaac __ (b.1920 - d.1992)
33. Beethoven's title lady
34. Hold off
37. Elizabeth Taylor's title
38. Gets workers for
39. Actress Olivia
40. Mountain goat's rock
41. Roman Numeral for 2501
42. Like fine wine
43. Matches
44. "Together Forever" singer Rick
46. "Blue Suede Shoes" bit: "Well, it's __ __ the money..."
48. __ Tuck
51. Compass point
52. Studio sign: 2 wds.
55. Canadian communications company
57. Jump
60. 501 __ __. NW (Canadian Embassy's locale in Washington, DC)
63. Desert weather
64. Ms. West's
65. Weasel kin
66. Much
67. Shortened helper
68. Beatles-style of jacket

Down
1. Small salmon
2. Cote d'__ (French Riviera)
3. Director Mr. Howard's
4. Man. neighbour
5. Bzzz-er's abode
6. Sea lettuce
7. Reluctant
8. Purposeful saying
9. Fireplace residue
10. "Come on down to the __ __ and I will / Buy you a bottle of wine..." - Joni Mitchell, "Carey"
11. Prefix meaning 'Thought'
12. Mr. Griffin
13. 'ence' word-ending alternative
18. Rihanna's nickname
19. Actor, George __
23. Dinosaur tooth, whale bone ...and others: 2 wds.
25. Decorator Mr. Berkus
26. Red Lobster servings
27. Swiss chocolate brand
28. Swallow swiftly
30. "The X Factor" host Mr. Lopez
31. Noted astrologer Sydney
32. Carrots, celery, e.g.
33. Title role for Gwyneth in 1996
35. Saloon serving
36. Oliver! song: "__ Anything": 2 wds.
39. "The __ _ Feel" by Gordon Lightfoot
43. CPP = Canada __ Plan
45. Misjudges
47. Nine: German
49. He was a Titan
50. Dreams: French
52. October birthstone
53. Emperor of Rome
54. Have _ __ to pick
56. Endure
57. Possesses, olde-style
58. Complete
59. Place inSouth America
61. Singer Ms. Sumac
62. Did lunch

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

7			9	4	2			6
					3	8		
	2	6	8			3		
3	7		2		9	4		8
8								3
4		2	7		8		1	5
		8			6	7	9	
		9	4					
2			1	9	5			4

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	4	3	9	8	1	6	5
1	8	6	5	2	7	9	3	4
3	9	5	1	6	4	7	2	8
5	4	9	8	7	2	3	1	6
8	6	7	4	1	3	2	5	9
2	1	3	6	5	9	8	4	7
9	3	8	2	4	5	6	7	1
6	5	2	7	8	1	4	9	3
4	7	1	9	3	6	5	8	2

Today
12°/9°
Rain
80%

Thursday
13°/8°
Partly cloudy

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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